

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN COLUMNIST COMMENTS ON U.S. STATEMENT RE SITUATION
IN LEBANON AND AMERICAN PEACE EFFORTS

1. COLUMNIST FAWAZ NAQRI IN OFFICIAL BAATH PARTY DAILY
AL-BAATH MAY 29 WARNED THAT SYRIA MUST BE WARY OF
TRAVELLING ON A ROAD TO PEACE DESIGNED SOLELY BY U.S.
AND ISRAEL. IN HIS VIEW, "PRESIDENT FORD IS CONCERNED
WITH NECESSITY OF ACHIEVING PEACE IN ME AND DETERMINED
WORK TO REACH ANOTHER PARTIAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT
AND ISRAEL, HOPEFULLY AT SALZBURG, BY CONVINCING ARAB
SIDE NOT THE ISRAELIS."

2. AS FOR KISSINGER, COMMENTATOR CONTINUED, "HE IS CONCERNED
WITH STABILITY, SECURITY AND FUTURE OF LEBANON WHICH
AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE FEARS ABOUT
BECAUSE KEY TO SOLUTION -- AS KISSINGER SAYS -- IS
FIRST OF ALL IN SYRIAN HANDS AND BECAUSE SECOND,
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02027 031047Z

ISRAELI RAIDS ON LEBANON WILL CONTINUE. THIS IS A

VEILED PROVOCATION AGAINST PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ON ONE HAND AND AN INSINUATION AGAINST SYRIA ON THE OTHER. IN CONSEQUENCE, HE KEEPS THE FIRE OF CIVIL STRIFE IN LEBANON BURNING IN THE ASHES. AND THE RESULT, ACCORDING TO KISSINGER, IS THAT PROBLEM IS ON ARAB SIDE (ALL OR PARTIALLY) AND NOT ON THE ISRAELI SIDE."

3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE MEMO DISTRIBUTED MAY 28 ALSO ASSERTS THAT "PROBLEM IS ARAB PARTY." COLUMNIST DEDUCES FROM THIS "EVIDENCE" THAT "FORD, KISSINGER AND ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE ALL AGREE THAT MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM HAS BEEN CREATED BY ARABS AND ISRAEL HAS NO CONNECTION WITH IT." ADDS THAT LETTER OF 76 SENATORS, "THAT TIME-BOMB EXPLODED BY ZIONIST ELEMENTS AND THEIR ALLIES IN US BEFORE SALZBURG MEETING," WAS DESIGNED "TO OUTLINE ROAD BEFORE TALKS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS."

4. COLUMNIST CONCLUDES BOTH AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT "CHOICE OF ROAD REMAINS CHIEFLY ARAB RESPONSIBILITY. SINCE WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO DESIGN ITS LANDMARKS ACCORDING TO ZIONIST THEORIES, REPLY OF OUR PEOPLE MUST BE REFUSAL TO PROCEED IN THIS DIRECTION WHETHER WORD COMES FROM SALZBURG OR GENEVA."

5. COMMENT: THIS IS ONLY SYRIAN REACTION WE HAVE SEEN TO SENIOR US OFFICIAL'S RECENT STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN LEBANON.
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